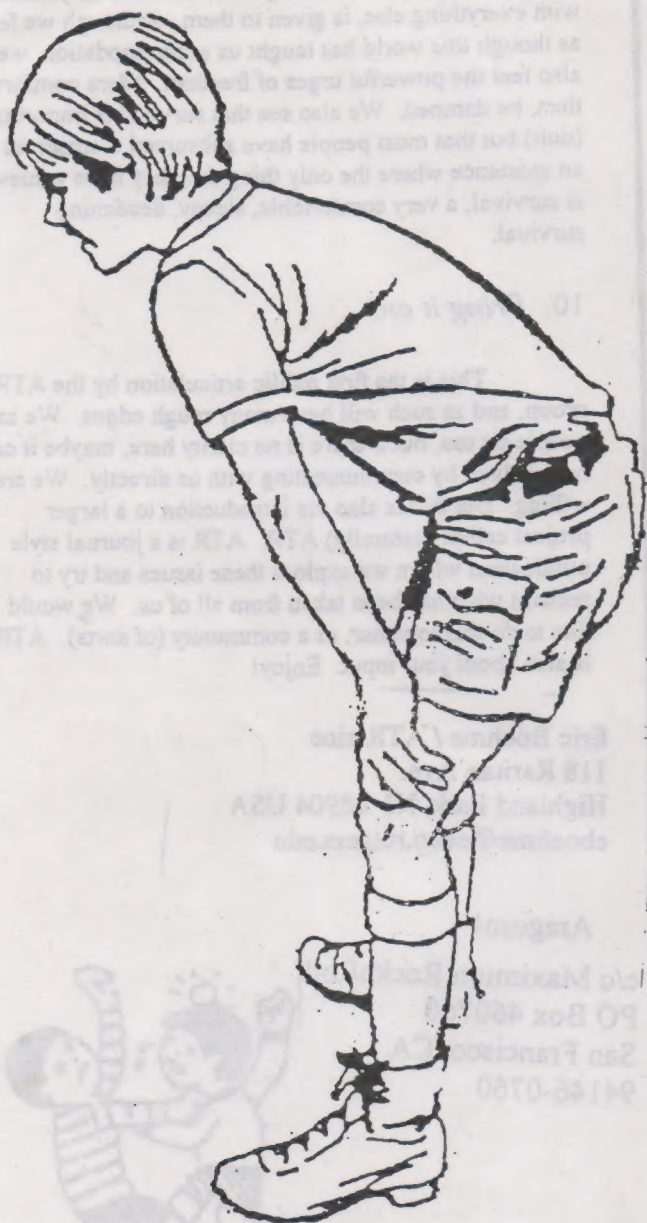


Please don't assume
that because of the use of
our language that we are
looking down on you.



TALK TO US

ATR

presents...



COMMUNITY?

also known as, another pamphlet
destined for the trash.

1. Hey kid! Why are you here tonight?
Are you gonna get laid? Are you here to be
entertained?

2. Are you "emo"? Do you think it is
interesting to watch people perform
unresolvable conflicts and emotions on
stage?

3. Is this show the 'cool' thing to do
tonight? How long did you take to prepare
for tonight? Who are you trying to
impress?

4. Are you gonna watch or take part in
tonight's show? Do you feel like a part of a
larger whole? What whole are we talking
about here?

5. Is there anything at all political
happening here, tonight? What is it, and
what is "political" anyway?

6. Are you going to buy (or sell) anything
tonight? What is for sale tonight? Are
you?

7. Are you an artiste'? Do you think that
this show is going to inspire or motivate
your creative urges? Or is this just another
vapid moment in a meaningless life, no
different than Disneyland, or the bar...

8. Is there anything about tonight that
could be thought of as "building
community"? Do you give a fuck? Where
will you be in five years, how about ten?

9. Do you want life to be easy? Would you
rather be comfortable or free? Do you
think that punk rock/hardcore has
anything at all to do with it?

10. Do you want to talk? Do you want to
fight? Do you want more?



The boss needs you



You don't need the boss

9. *It is easy to be comfortable if you were
raised that way. The rich are gonna stay rich,
the meek will not inherit the earth.*

Although we consider the question of "freedom
or comfort" to be a false dichotomy, we also think that it
exposes a harsh reality. Most people prefer comfort to
freedom. They prefer an easy life where stability, along
with everything else, is given to them. Although we feel
as though this world has taught us accommodation, we
also feel the powerful urges of freedom. Mere comfort
then, be damned. We also see that survival is important
(duh) but that most people have subsumed themselves in
an existence where the only thing that they have achieved
is survival, a very comfortable, sleepy, deadening
survival.

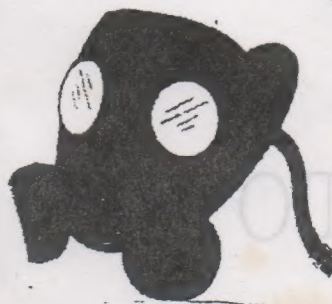
10. *Bring it on!*

This is the first public articulation by the ATR
group, and as such will have many rough edges. We as
people do too, but if there is no clarity here, maybe it can
be resolved by communicating with us directly. We are
willing. But this is also the introduction to a larger
project called (naturally) ATR. ATR is a journal style
publication where we explore these issues and try to
reclaim what has been taken from all of us. We would
like to do this together, as a community (of sorts). ATR
is also about your input. Enjoy!

Eric Boehme / ATR zine
118 Raritan Ave.
Highland Park, NJ 08904 USA
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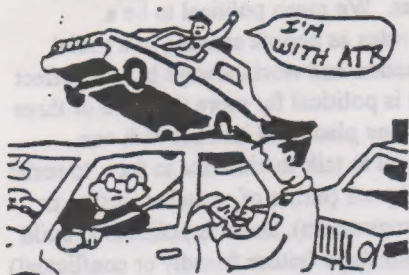
Aragorn!

c/o Maximum RocknRoll
PO Box 460760
San Francisco, CA
94146-0760



7. Creativity is not for sale. Are you an artist 'cuz you can afford to be?

Does any environment where we play roles, partake in goods and services (you paid to be entertained, right?), or merely observe, contain the potential to develop the creative process. We think that it is obvious



that it is only to the extent that you remove yourself from such role-playing that the potential to create exists within our daily lives, not within the

atmosphere of "just another show." We are all artists. When we share our creativity, not as untouchable scenesters nor as mysterious and enigmatic artists, we discover our connections to a larger human project. A place where art is not separate from life but is indeed an essential part of us.

8. Is "community" a hippie term? Hippies are dead and gone.

We are building community. But this is an impossibly large (and small) task that will captivate our attentions for the rest of our lives. What is pathetic, is that our efforts will undoubtedly remain in isolation as the pull of accommodation and involvement in the institutions of this world is very strong. The likelihood remains that in 5 or 10 years, most of us will be working some shitty job, with an unhappy family, a mortgage, and a future filled with monotonous repetition. Community, as it develops, intends a better world. We deserve to be connected to our own food, our land, and to each other. Sadly, in the way we live today, these things are impossible. Part of our community then, our vision, is in the dissolution of this world. We are here tonight because we are still under the naive assumption that it is within hardcore that there exists a possibility. And it is here that we became exposed to the process by which we began to articulate our anger and our hope. We feel as though we would be remiss if our work was not then done within this hardcore community, of course also with the assumption that our community is only a microcosm of the possibility of a whole world.

Any desire must be suppressed



1. This is almost like TV, isn't it.

Entertainment is passive, it is one way, from the performer to the audience. As such, we are not interested in entertainment but in its destruction. Entertainment is a diversion. It takes us away from our everyday lives, and functions as a compartmentalized part of our world. A compartmentalized life is one where individuality is prioritized over connection with others, where our actions are removed from our beliefs, and where we separate our lives into work, play (entertainment), love (sex), and friendship. Entertainment also takes art forms and creative processes and turns them into commodities to be bought and sold. Because entertainment fosters watching instead of acting, because we have to separate our work from our play, and because entertainment gets us to buy rather than create, entertainment reinforces the smooth functioning of the system. Entertainment serves the status quo. Entertainment is an integral aspect of "this world."

2. Emo is fucked.

It's based upon an act, a performance, and a mask that is separate from the real human being performing. Does the emo performer always feel anguished and frantic in every part of their day? Emo is also necessarily unresolved. Emo is all about watching, re-erecting

the barriers between audience and artist, spectator and performer, where interaction is simply



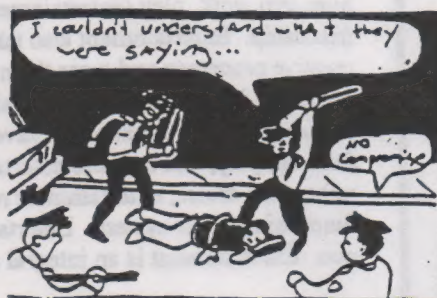
impossible. Emo is the soap-operas, the OJ trial of hardcore--we are all so drawn in and fascinated by someone else's supposed anger or sadness. Emotions are essential to our lives, yet emo compartmentalizes and separates an emotion or a set of emotional responses from the whole of the individual, the whole of our emotional lives, and the situation or the social world from where each of us spring. On-stage, performers erect an aura around them, an emotional sanctuary where they perform and act, without any connection to the audience or any real connection to themselves except by separating a previously felt emotion from the context that brought the emotion on, and selling it to kids watching and listening. Emo is another mask to wear, another way to be entertained, to be cool, to look vulnerable, to catch someone's attention. I wonder who is watching me now?

3. *Cool people need to be shunned, not idolized.*

Role playing is also practiced by the audience. Whether your role is one of a shopper (of the newest most "relevant" merchandise), a beautiful person (by wearing the newest fashions over your toned and thinned body), a "player" (by only relating to others for the potential of romantic validation), or a scenester (by only relating to others for their "rank" within the pre-established scene hierarchy), you are still removing yourself from yourself. Hardcore has become a hobby for many kids. Merely something to do on the weekends, or the place where all the cute kids are, or what your friends are doing at the moment--hardcore has become the hip thing to do. Hardcore is a phase for many kids--a time when they can be crazy and do what they want before they have to join the real world. Hardcore is adolescent rebellion, kids using the community for their own momentary diversion. For some of us, this is our lives, our lifeblood, and the only community where we can feel a sense of connection and completeness that this world or any momentary diversion cannot give us.

4. *Ba, ba black sheep, have you any wool? If you think that you are a black sheep, what are you doing about it? Or is it just more hip to pretend that you are different?*

Simply put, we have an agenda, that we believe that others share. Our agenda is to make our daily lives relevant, and to reclaim our definitions as part of that process. When you separate hardcore from the reality of your day to day existence, it becomes just another activity. If hardcore is a diversion, if it is entertainment, there is no sense of wholeness, no foundation of community that we can turn to in order to live real and unmediated lives as a part of some kind of a whole. Not as a separated, selfish, atomized part with no connection or responsibility to any whole.



5. *Fuck depoliticized kids! They are excusing the fact that they do not care.*

How do you define political? Do you define it as involvement in the bipartisan machine of reform? If you do then we are neither interested in politics nor do we consider this evening political. But we consider politics to be the **practice** of our understanding of the world. By that definition, we are interested in politicizing every moment of our lives. We mean political to be a recognition of our roles as people existing in a social world, where our action and world always have an effect on others. Thus, it is political for more than two or three people to gather in one place and interact with one another. It is political to talk to kids face to face, to resist turning them into objects (either of sexual attraction or scenester icons or consumers), and it is political to build friendships or relationships (either friendly or conflictual) with other kids. It is political to discuss (and even implement) alternatives to this world in terms of living, eating, or interacting. And it is political to argue or disagree with kids who don't share your views. This world want to keep us alienated, keep us from talking authentically with one another, keep us from realizing our own happiness. And it does this by depoliticizing us, by hiding the connections between how we see the world, each other, and the how we interact with both.

6. *Punk = \$\$\$, right?*

We feel as though it is exactly to the extent that everything in this society is for sale that this society is dead (mediated, horrible, etc...). Yeah. We have been commodified. Selling records or zines nowadays has become the primary focus in our community. We sell our **art** just as easily as we will sell any other material object and we put our own profits before any thought of other people. All of our concerns are for the product, what new record we are gonna pick up, how many zines are we gonna sell. This is no different than the world around us. Hardcore isn't about making a difference anymore, it is about making profit.

By partaking in the consumption of our commodities you are swallowing placebo's. It is only to the extent that you create your own meaning, share it with your peers and actualize you desires that there is any hope for our future together...

